

TRIBUTE TO MARC HAKEN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose contributions to his community speak volumes for the ability of one human being to have a positive impact on the lives of others. In a time when individuals seem to be focusing increasingly on their own welfare, Marc Haken, who already has made significant contributions to the Queens community as a teacher and community activist, has discovered yet another way to have a profound impact on his fellow New Yorkers.

For the last 3 years, Marc has made at least 1 monthly donation to the Queens Library Foundation's Buy-a-Book program to help expand the library's collection. You see, Marc learned at a young age that the ability and desire to read opens the door to a world of ideas and opportunities. The 37 books that Marc has donated to this point, each dedicated to a deserving individual, will enrich the lives of Queens residents for years to come, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to community in which we can all share. I hope it serves as an example to others.

Mr. Speaker, I'm inserting into the RECORD a January 8, 1995, article published in the Queens Library newsletter which elaborates on the meaningful contributions made by this fine citizen:

COMMUNITY LEADER CHAMPIONS BUY-A-BOOK CAMPAIGN

Contributing to the Queens Library Foundation's Buy-a-Book program has become something of an obsession for Marc Haken. Since first learning about the opportunity to put new books into the Library's collection through Buy-a-Book, Mr. Haken, a teacher, community activist and lifelong Queens resident, has been the program's most enthusiastic supporter. Each month for the past two years, he has faithfully contributed at least one \$25 donation to purchase a book. In all, his donations have enabled the Library to acquire 37 new books—books that Queens Library would otherwise have been unable to offer.

While some might consider his generosity unusual or excessive, Mr. Haken knows well the great value of books and libraries, and believes that contributing to Buy-a-Book is the last he can do to repay the Library which helped make him a success. As a junior high school teacher, vice chair of Community Board 8, president of a housing association, political lobbyist and member of countless community organizations, Mr. Haken leads a full and contented life. However, he realizes that if Queens Library's limitless resources had not been available to him as a child, his life may have taken a much different course.

"It's frightening to think back on it today, but I almost slipped through elementary school without learning to read," Mr. Haken said. "Thankfully, my sixth grade teacher recognized the problem and insisted that I begin learning to read and taking my education seriously." That was just the push Mr. Haken needed. Each day following school, he walked directly to Queens Library's Central Library, then located on Parsons Boulevard, and spent all afternoon devouring books, determine to compensate for lost time.

"I wasn't even concerned with subject matter at the time, I only wanted to improve my reading skills," Mr. Haken related. "I'd simply pick a shelf in the library and return every day until I'd read every book on that shelf. Somewhere in the process, I began appreciating all the wonders of reading. I realized my mind was opening and new worlds were presenting themselves."

Mr. Haken believes that the voracious appetite he developed for reading led directly to his desire to teach, and his commitment to community service. He considers himself fortunate to have built a rich and satisfying life, and feels that he can best express his gratitude by providing opportunities for others, particularly young people.

The Buy-a-Book program, he said, offers a simple but ideal way for him to have a meaningful impact in the community. "I'm not a wealthy guy financially. I don't have the means to donate thousands of dollars. The beauty of this program is that for \$25, I can give a gift that will last for years and enrich the minds of dozens, maybe hundreds of people. Surely I can find \$25 for that."

Mr. Haken also enjoys the fact that Buy-a-Book contributors are invited to dedicate each donated book, with an inscription inside the bookcover, to a person of their choice. "I've found that people are absolutely thrilled to be recognized in this way. They consider it a wonderful gesture," he said. "One young man to whom I dedicated a book continually visits the Library just to see the book and ensure that it's in good condition."

For the first 20 or so books, deciding who to honor was simple: his sister Clair, colleagues, neighbors, and the memory of his parents and other relatives who have passed away. Having donated 37 books at this point, he has been forced to become more inventive in conceiving dedications. "For my last book," he laughed, "I simply drew a blank, so I figured why not pay tribute to myself."

That, certainly, was an indulgence he richly deserved.

To become a Buy-a-Book donor, send a check payable to Queens Library Foundation to: Queens Library Foundation, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY, 11432. Donors may indicate the name of the person to whom they wish to dedicate the book and the branch library or Central Library division where they would like the book to be shelved. For more information, call the Queens Library Foundation at (718) 990-0849.

IN HONOR OF REV. ARNOLD
MCKINNEY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Rev. Arnold McKinney. Reverend McKinney is the pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Waycross, GA. He has made many contributions not only in his capacity as a Baptist minister, but also as a concerned citizen. Reverend McKinney is a teacher, husband, and father, and his accomplishments are being honored this Friday by the members of his church and community.

Reverend McKinney received the Benjamin E. Mays Fellowship to attend theological training at the Morehouse School of Religion/Interdenominational Theological Center. Before at-

tending seminary, he served for several years as associate dean of students at Middlebury College where he received his undergraduate degree.

Reverend McKinney's commitment goes beyond Waycross, GA. He is an active participant across the entire State, and serves on a variety of boards and organizations that are aimed at improving the lives of children and families. Currently, he serves as vice president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc., the State's largest organization of African-Americans who are active in ministerial training, community service, Christian education, and home and foreign missions. He also serves on the boards of the Maternal and Child Health Institute, Ware County Health Coalition, and the Southern Governor's Ecumenical Council on Infant Mortality. He has served on the Governor's Special Council on Family Planning, the Governor's Commission on Children and Youth, the Grady Hospital Board of Visitors, and the Georgia Welfare Reform Taskforce.

Reverend McKinney frequently lectures on Christian education and holds workshops on church organization and leadership. He is a great leader, husband, and father, and I am proud to have such a devoted individual living in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

FEDERAL POLICIES ON CITIES
AND STATES WITH RESPECT TO
THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, fixing a broken welfare system is one of the most significant challenges this Congress will face. As a newly-elected Member of Congress, I come to Washington with a background in city government. As a former councilmember and former vice-chair of the National League of Cities Task Force on Federal Policy and Family Policy, I am intimately familiar with effects that Federal policies have on cities and States as they grapple with the problem of poverty.

I am deeply concerned that sweeping budget and block grant proposals before the new Congress will have devastating long-term consequences for children and families as well as for the Nation's cities. Mr. Speaker, as you well know, welfare reform is fundamentally a children's issue as two-thirds of recipients are children—70 percent in Texas. In my district alone, 51,957 children are living in poverty with 35 percent of these children being under 18 years of age. In fact, of all 435 congressional districts, mine ranks 30th for the number of poor children.

Proposals which would convert welfare [AFDC], food stamps, SSI disability, or other survival programs for children and families into block grants to States would strip these programs of their entitlement status and thereby strip State and local governments of their ability to respond to increasing needs. In entitlement programs, more Federal money flows into cities through AFDC, food stamps, and SSI disability programs. This automatic influx

of Federal funds designed to meet the increased need to meet the needs of our communities would cease under the block grant. Cities and States would be left holding the bag in the almost inevitable event that recession hits again and caseloads rise.

The Department of Health and Human Services has found that if these proposals were implemented, today, some 5 million children would be denied benefits. Interestingly enough, while the Personal Responsibility Act suggests orphanages and foster homes as the solution to families that cannot care for their children, it falls far short when it comes to funding these facilities. Under the Personal Responsibility Act, of the 541,000 children who are currently receiving AFDC benefits in Texas, 288,000 would be denied benefits and only 310 federal orphanage slots would be funded.

Furthermore, the USDA has recently calculated that the Personal Responsibility Act would decrease funding for USDA food assistance programs in Texas by over \$1 billion per year. That is a cut of almost one-third from current levels of funding.

Despite some claims to the contrary, the facts show that the vast majority of AFDC families are clearly not having additional children to increase their benefits. In Texas, nearly 72 percent of AFDC families have only one or two children. The national average is even higher—73 percent. Others claim that most poor people are not, and choose not to be, employed. The facts, again, prove otherwise. The vast majority of poor Americans—four out of five—are children, elderly, ill or disabled, or already working full- or part-time at below-poverty wages. And for those who are not employed, they are not alone. More than 7 million Americans from all walks of life were out of work and actively looking for jobs by the end of 1994. Another 4.8 million either were working part-time because they could not find full-time jobs, or had grown too discouraged to continue searching. The truth of the matter is, adults, and particularly family heads, want to work. However, as in the children's game of musical chairs, there simply are not enough seats for everyone.

An effective welfare reform effort must include major new investments in real job creation. The bottom line is that work should pay and working more should pay more. Full-time work should provide enough earnings combined with earnings supplements such as an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit [EITC] to help get families out of poverty. Individuals who can work should have access to full-time work and community service jobs should be offered as a last resort to those who, after an aggressive job search, still cannot find work in the regular economy.

Sufficient funds must also be invested in child care, if we are truly committed to finding gainful employment for the poor. A survey of Illinois AFDC recipients found that child care problems kept 42 percent of those surveyed from working full-time—and 39 percent reported that child care problems kept them from going to school. These results should not be surprising. Census Bureau data tells us that non-poor families spend an average of 6 percent of their income on child care, while low-income parents are forced to pay roughly a quarter of their income for child care. Effec-

tive welfare reform must address these significant impediments to employment.

In addition, for welfare reform to succeed, families must be guaranteed comprehensive health insurance that they cannot lose. Lack of decent health insurance in low-wage employment is a major barrier for recipients who are trying to leave welfare for work, but are legitimately concerned about their own health, and that of their children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to consider what will happen to children and families if cities and States exhaust their Federal funding under these circumstances. Children facing imminent danger of abuse or neglect could be placed on waiting list instead of being removed immediately from their homes. Needy mothers and children might be turned away from a county or city welfare office simply because AFDC funds for that month or year already had been spent. Or in the best-case scenario for children and families, cities and States would be forced to pay 100 percent of the costs of continuing aid to eligible families after Federal funds run out. And of course the States would have to deal with the human suffering, social problems, and costs of emergency services that will result from greater destitution among children and families.

All of you know that eliminating the entitlement status of these key child survival programs will not cause the needs of poor children to disappear. The consequences of pending block grant proposals are all the more troubling because they are likely to be accompanied by new responsibilities placed on States and countries that will deny basic cash assistance to as many as 5 to 6 million needy children, including up to two-thirds of all children now receiving AFDC. Children born to unmarried teenage mothers, those for whom paternity has not been established, and those whose parents have received AFDC for more than 5 years could lose all benefits under this welfare reform proposal.

This is not genuine welfare reform, but rather welfare punishment. What many congressional leaders are calling welfare reform, many children will call empty stomachs * * * and Texas will call a fiscal disaster. Genuine reform would be lifting poor children and families out of poverty and by creating real jobs, providing quality child care, good health care, expanding education and training, and strengthening child support enforcement—taking the tough and sometimes costly, but nonetheless necessary, steps to make the system work in the long-term for poor families and for all Americans.

C-17'S READY TO TACKLE THE WORLD

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to announce to my colleagues that the United States has a military force projection capability today that is unprecedented in the history of airlift.

The reason for this unparalleled capability is simple. The U.S. Air Force's first C-17 Globemaster III squadron at Charleston Air

Force Base, SC, was declared operational a week ago. This is the first major step in overhauling America's ability to carry out the Air Force's Global Reach missions.

This event is all the more significant to me, since this great milestone is really a tribute to the over 10,000 employees at McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, most of whom I represent in these Chambers and whose magnificent efforts have been essential to making the C-17 the best, most capable airlifter ever built.

Critically needed outsized equipment for humanitarian aid, such as water purification systems, can now be airlifted to previously inaccessible runways in remote areas of the world. America's ability to airlift heavy, outsized combat equipment and firepower into short, austere airfields to support U.S. and allied ground forces during a security crisis is now a reality. It is essential that equipment be delivered directly to the troops in the field, and because of the C-17's unique on-load/off-load capability, it now can be.

The declaration of initial operational capability means that the C-17 has passed all flight tests and is ready for any type of military or humanitarian mission. The 12 aircraft will be shared by the 17th Airlift Squadron, assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing, and the Air Force Reserve's 317th Airlift Squadron, assigned to the 315th Airlift Wing, both at Charleston.

All of you who joined last year in supporting the amendment I introduced along with my colleague and neighbor, Representative JANE HARMAN—to provide full funding for the President's request for the C-17—can take pride in your vote and in your role toward providing this essential airlift capability. The C-17 is the most flexible, most capable airlifter ever produced. Its entry into fully operational status is an important landmark which will benefit our troops in the field and those in need throughout the world for years to come.

At this point in the record, I would like to include an article, "C-17s Ready to Tackle the World," from the January 18 Long Beach Press-Telegram and news releases by the Department of Defense and Air Mobility Command about this historic declaration.

[From the Long Beach (CA) Press-Telegram, Jan. 18, 1995]

C-17S READY TO TACKLE THE WORLD

(By Lindsay Chaney)

LONG BEACH.—The U.S. Air Force on Tuesday declared its squadron of a dozen C-17 transports ready for worldwide service.

The declaration of "Initial Operation Capability" means that the C-17 has passed all flight tests and is ready for any type of military or humanitarian mission.

Also Tuesday, McDonnell Douglas delivered a 13th plane to the Air Force.

The C-17 will be operated by the 17th Squadron of the 437th Airlift Wing, based at Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina.

Built by McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, the C-17 is designed as a three-in-one airplane to replace the aging C-141 Starlifter fleet as the military's core transport plane. The C-17 can carry twice the payload of a C-141, but more importantly can carry outsized equipment such as tanks, helicopters and missile batteries, such as the C-5 Galaxy. Like the much smaller C-130 Hercules, it can also take off and land at small airstrips.

Its contract with the Air Force required McDonnell Douglas to have 12 operational C-